GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4536
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2000
DEMAND OF COAL
BIKRAM KESHARI DEO

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the demand of coal in the country by the steel plants;

(b) whether the local demand of coal has been decreasing;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that huge quantities of coal were imported for power, steel and cement plants during 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(e) if so, the countries from which the coal was imported and the reasons for preferring imported coal than the indigenous one?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) Demand of coking coal by steel sector for the year 2000-01, as assessed by Planning Commission, is 36.76 million tonnes.

(b)&(c) Due to general economic conditions especially in the Cement and Steel sectors and non-materialisationof coal based power generation capacity, the overall projected demand of coal has not materialised in the last few years leading to less offtake from coal companies. However, there has been comparative improvement in offtake during the last year.

(d)&(e) There is a gap between demand and indigenous production of coking and superior grade coal used by Steel Plants for metallurgical purposes. Steel Plants are importing coal
(i) to bridge the gap between the requirement and indigenous availability of coking coal of required quality and
(ii) to improve the quality of overall blend for technical reasons for improving performance of blast furnace.

Some Thermal Power Stations and Cement Plants located near the coastal regions are importing non-coking coal on consideration of cost per unit of calorific value. Major countries from which coal is being imported are Australia, China, Indonesia and South Africa.